

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended).

An atraumatic surgical ~~Surgical~~ needle (11) having two tips (12,12') and consisting of a tubular metal shaft, ~~the~~ with a central portion ~~of which~~ that is equipped with a hole (10), through which emerges a surgical thread (13) that is anchored inside the needle (11).

Claim 2 (currently amended).

The atraumatic surgical needle ~~Needle~~ (11) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~its~~ tips (12,12') are bevelled in one or more oblique planes and the hole (10) through which the thread passes involves only one wall of the hollow shaft.

Claim 3 (currently amended).

The atraumatic surgical needle ~~Needle~~ (11) as claimed in claim 1, wherein one end of the surgical thread (13) is inserted into the

hole (10) of the needle (11) and is anchored therein by ~~means of~~ pinching the needle (11).

Claim 4 (currently amended).

The atraumatic surgical needle ~~Needle~~ (11) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surgical thread (13) is equipped with a knot (14).

Claim 5 (currently amended).

The atraumatic surgical needle ~~Needle~~ (11) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the end of the surgical thread (13) is inserted into the hole (10) of the atraumatic two- tipped needle (11), is made to emerge from one end (12), is equipped with a knot (14) and is then drawn back inside the shaft towards the hole (10).

Claim 6 (currently amended).

The atraumatic surgical needle ~~Needle~~ (11) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surgical thread (13), equipped in advance with a knot (14), is inserted into one end of the needle (11) and is made to emerge through the hole (10).

Claim 7 (currently amended).

The atraumatic surgical needle ~~Needle~~ (11) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the end of the surgical thread (13) is inserted into the hole (10) and is anchored inside the atraumatic two-tipped needle

(11) by means of a scotch (15), which is pushed down inside the needle from one of the two ends (12,12').

Claim 8 (currently amended).

The atraumatic surgical needle ~~Needle~~ (11) as claimed in claim 7 wherein the scotch (15) may consist of a solid bar or a portion of tube, made of metal or plastic, the calibre of which is determined by the diameter of the needle (11).

Claim 9 (currently amended).

The atraumatic surgical needle ~~Needle~~ (11) as claimed in claim 7, wherein the scotch (15), when it has been placed in its final position, is anchored inside the needle (11) by pinching, or by means of glue (16) or other suitable fixing material.

Claim 10 (currently amended).

The atraumatic surgical needle ~~Needle~~ (11) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surgical thread (13) is fixed to the needle (11) by means of a single- or dual- component glue or other solidifying material suited to the purpose.

Claim 11 (currently amended).

The atraumatic surgical needle ~~Needle~~ (11) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the end of the surgical thread (13) inserted into the hole (10) emerges from one end (12,12') of the needle (11), and is inserted and fixed into a hole in one end of a scotch, which is subsequently inserted into the needle (11).

Claim 12 (currently amended).

The atraumatic surgical needle ~~Needle~~ (11) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surgical thread (13) is fixed between the coils of a tiny spring, which is then inserted into the atraumatic two-tipped needle (11).

Claim 13 (currently amended).

The atraumatic surgical needle ~~Needle~~ (11) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surgical thread (13) is fixed by means of two or more anchoring techniques.